

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

OUR GOD, OUR COUNTRY, AND TRUTH.

TERMS—\$1.50 a Year, in Advance

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Official Directory.

LOWMEYER H. DAVIS, M. C., Fourth District, Cape Girardeau.
BERNARD ZWART, U. S. Commissioner, Eastern District of Missouri, Ironton.
THOS. MADREY, State Senator of 24th District, Doniphan.
JNO. L. THOMAS, Judge 36th Circuit, Hillsboro.
WILL R. EDGAR, Prosecuting Attorney, Ironton.
J. W. BERRYMAN, Representative, Arcadia.
FRANZ DINGER, President Judge, Ironton.
DAVID H. PALMER, Bellevue, and J. G. CLARKSON, Annapolis, Associate Judges.
JOHN E. T. EDWARDS, Judge of Probate Court, Ironton.
W. A. FLETCHER, Sheriff, Ironton.
JAMES BURNED, Collector, Ironton.
JOSEPH HUFF, Clerk Circuit Court, Ironton.
G. B. NALL, Clerk County Court, Ironton.
J. G. WHITWORTH, Treasurer, Ironton.
W. E. BELL, Assessor, Bellevue.
JACOB T. AKE, Public Administrator, Ironton.
J. GRANDONNE, Coroner, Ironton.
N. C. GRIFFITH, County School Commissioner for Iron County, Missouri, Ironton.

Circuit Court is held on the Fourth Monday in October and April.
County Court convenes on the First Monday of March, June, September and December.
Probate Court is held on the First Monday in February, May, August and November.

Societies.

KYRIOTS OF HONOR—Valley Lodge, No. 1870, K. of H., Ironton; regular meetings Wednesday evenings, Jan. 12th and 26th, Feb. 9th and 23d, March 9th and 23d, April 6th and 20th, May 4th and 18th, and June 1st, 15th and 29th.
J. W. WILKINSON, Reporter.
MIDIAN CHAPTER, No. 71, R. A. M., meets on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month, at 8 o'clock P. M., in the Masonic Hall, Ironton.
STAR OF THE WEST LODGE No. 133, A. F. & A. M., meets in Masonic Hall, Ironton, on the Saturday of or preceding the full moon in each month.
MASONIC LODGE No. 351, A. F. & A. M., meets in the Masonic Hall, Cross Roads, on the Saturday of or preceding the full moon in each month.
IRONTON ENCAMPMENT No. 20, I. O. O. F., meets in the Odd-Fellows' Hall, Ironton, on the First and Third Thursdays of every month.
IRON LODGE No. 107, I. O. O. F., meets every Monday evening, at its Hall, in Ironton.
PHOEBE LODGE No. 330, I. O. O. F., meets every Thursday evening, in Masonic Hall, Cross Roads.
IRONTON LODGE No. 6, I. O. O. F., meets every Friday evening, at its Hall, Ironton.

Churches.

MASS every Sunday at 8 o'clock A. M. in the Chapel of the Arcadia College. Evening instruction, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at 3 o'clock P. M. at the Catholic Church. Mass is celebrated every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.
M. E. CHURCH, Cor. Reynolds and Mountain Streets, Ironton. M. E. Pastor, Residence: Ironton, Mo. Services, Second and Fourth Sundays in each month. Sabbath School every Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock. Prayer Meetings every Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock.
SERVICES at the Baptist Church in Ironton on the second Sabbath in each month, at 11 o'clock A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Preaching by Rev. J. B. H. GEORGE BOUTSHER, Pastor.

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Its virtues are unquestionable and its curative character absolute, as the writer can personally testify, both from experience and observation. Among the many readers of the Review in one part and another of the country, it is probable that numbers are afflicted with deafness, and to such it may be said: "Write at once to Haylock & Co., 7 Day Street, New York, enclosing \$1, and you will receive by return a remedy that will enable you to hear like anybody else, and whose curative effects will be permanent. You will never regret doing so."—*Review of New York Mercantile Review*, Sept. 25, 1880.

MRS. M. C. GIDEON,
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In Rheumatism and Neuralgia in her treatment peculiarly successful. 154-11
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Office—One door north of the Iron House, IRONTON, MO.

W. R. EDGAR,
Attorney at Law,
Prosecuting Attorney for Iron Co., IRONTON, MO.
WILL PAY PROMPT ATTENTION
to Collections, and all Business in the State Courts. Office, south of courthouse square.

BERNARD ZWART,
Attorney at Law,
Ironton, Missouri.
PAYS PROMPT ATTENTION
To Collections, taking depositions. Paying taxes in all counties in Southeast Missouri, to settlements of Estate and on Partnership accounts. Business at the land office, purchase and sale of Mineral lands, and all Law-Business entrusted to his care; Examination of land titles and conveying a specialty.

The Granite Formation of Southeast Missouri.

BY THOMAS CALAHAN.

Having noticed some facts in connection with the iron formation of this section of the country, we now proceed to look at another class of volcanic developments, only premising that there is a great variety in the specimens, and that their weight per cubic foot is a sure test of their fineness, firmness and value for mechanical purposes.

In going into our work, we will begin with that mass found at Graniteville, near Middlebrook, in Iron county, Mo., because it is the most widely known, and it is nearest to us.

It is located in township 34, north, range 3 east of the principal meridian, on land belonging to the Iron Mountain Company; who, about thirteen years ago, leased the location to Messrs. B. Gratz Brown, of Iron county, and P. W. Schneider, of St. Louis, Mo.

It is sufficient to say that the quantity of the deposit is inexhaustible, so far as the capacity of the country to use it is concerned. It not only forms a mountain at this point, but shoots up again at a point some two miles away, on the road leading from Middlebrook to the east fork of Black river; the formation at the latter named place being if any difference better than that at Graniteville, which was probably selected because it was nearer to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern railroad.

In quality the stone is popularly rated as red granite, but the propriety of so estimating is not clear. It will not be found to be the same as the red Scotch granite. The weight will determine that fact. Red Scotch granite of standard quality weighs 172 whilst the best material accessible at Graniteville in 1873 weighed 163 pounds to the cubic foot. The writer saw the stone dressed, measured and weighed.

This difference in weight leads to closer investigation, and that will disclose the fact that the stone referred to is rather coarse and open in its texture, and tinged somewhat with carbonate of iron, which chemistry will pronounce an active agent of disintegration. The felspar which is one of the constituents of granite, has a strong affinity for carbon, of which material there is a portion in rain-water. The carbon in the preparation of iron mixed with the stone, imparts additional carbon to the rain and so hastens its work in dissolving the felspar. The extent to which that work has progressed will appear from the fact that every mass of granite standing above the general level of the formation is round. Originally angular in their formation, the rain, the sun, and the frost, have chipped off the corners of them.

First-class granite must be free from carbonates to be permanent. In this respect the material at Graniteville is inferior to that found in equally great abundance in the region of Knob Lick, in St. Francois county, Mo., and owned in large part by the Cayces, of Farmington. The difference in favor of the latter named article will be between two and three pounds to the cubic foot. It is blue-gray in color and very fine in the grain.

The writer has also heard of a formation in township 33, north, of range 4 east, which is said to be almost black in color, and very fine in texture; but he has not seen any specimens of it. Perhaps it is an advance beyond even the Knob Lick formation.

There is a connection existing somehow between the granite and kaolin formations of our country. All through the kaolin formation, nodules of pure granite are found; but whether granite is crystallized kaolin, or kaolin is decomposed granite, is the puzzle. A similar connection exists between manganese and blue specular iron ore, being a similar puzzle.

But it was some time ago, that in 1868 Messrs. Brown and Schneider leased the quarry at Graniteville, and carried on the work in a small way, supplying some stone for the State House at Springfield, Illinois, and more for the St. Louis bridge, and some to private parties.

But it was a day of small things, until 1873, when the United States gave a contract for the stone for the basement and sub-basement of the Custom House at St. Louis, Mo.; and for some materials for the Custom House at Cincinnati, Ohio.

But the question will arise. If the material at Graniteville is inferior in quality to that found at another place equally accessible from St. Louis, how did the contract come to Graniteville?

That is what we now propose to consider as the great feature in the history of the work.

In August, 1873, when Mr. Thomas

H. Oakshott, Superintendent of the Government works at Charleston, S. C., was at Graniteville, as Superintendent ad interim, organizing the work, the writer took service first as a carpenter, then as indiscriminate clerk, and then as Timekeeper for the Government.

He was instructed to keep his eyes and ears open, and he obeyed instructions, and soon found abundance of bad facts.

It soon appeared that the contract was on the Moity Plan—that is, that the contractor was to furnish the quarried stone at the sheds, and when it had been dressed by the Government, the contractor was to deliver it at the site selected for the new Custom House in St. Louis. It appeared that the Government was to erect all needed shops and sheds for the works; to furnish all materials and machinery for dressing and boxing the stone; to pay the stone-cutters, and the blacksmiths, carpenters, teamsters, and laborers that waited on them, and that on all this outlay the contractor was to have as his pay fifteen per cent. To put the thing in brief: The contractor received fifteen per cent. out of every dollar expended on the work, except the cost of erecting and furnishing the office of the Government Superintendent, and the pay of the staff.

A glance will show that under that contract the more the Government expended on the work, the more the contractor would receive. In short, it was a contract that would bind almost anyone under a heavy penalty to swindle the Government.

It appeared, furthermore, that every Government official on the line from the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, A. B. Mullett, down, was in the ring with the contractor; that Wm. McKee, of the *Globe-Democrat*, was on the contractor's bond, and that of every newspaper in the great city of St. Louis, not a dog among them all would move his tongue in regard to the fraud.

The writer must not be understood as insinuating that it required a bond with a heavy penalty to compel the contractor to cheat the Government, or that it was necessary that all these men should watch and see that he did it. The writer disavows every such thought.

It may be added here that the Grand Jury of the United States District Court, being moved to inquire into the matter as to whether the contractor kept his contract, solemnly reported that they found that he had fully done so. This was intended as a whitewashing document; but with those who understand the nature and operation of that contract, that report of the Grand Jury was one of the most damning verdicts that ever was given against a man; for the trouble in the case was not whether the contractor had or had not kept his contract, but in the fact that the contract was from the beginning to the end an unmitigated swindle on the United States.

It appeared also that the contractor as lessee of the land charged fifteen per cent. on the bills for the privilege of erecting and maintaining boarding-houses, and two per cent. for stopping the board bills at the pay table.

At first view this would seem to have nothing to do with the Government; but examined more closely, the keeper of the boarding-house did not pay that charge. It was taxed on the boarders, added to their wages, and paid by the Government. Thus under a contract allowing fifteen the contractor squeezed out thirty-two per cent.

But this is not all that appeared. Whilst the contractor, backed by a strong ring of Government officials and the whole press of St. Louis, was placed under heavy bonds to tax the Government, John Best was placed there as Government Superintendent, under a bond of twenty thousand dollars, to take order that the Government was not swindled.

Above John Best, including A. B. Mullett, in whose hands the Government put the whole control of the matter, every man was in the ring with the contractor. Every hope of appeal upward for John Best was thus cut off, and then the Ring placed just below him one of its tools as Chief Clerk and confidential adviser; who thus stood like a man of whose salvation the fee-simple had been sold, and the entail and remainder cut off.

A passing notice may be given to this Chief Clerk. He was "a nice man very," a loud professor, very careful to snatch a moment from business to read the Bible, when he was very certain there was some one looking. He was as full of religious zeal as a stray dog is of ticks. But by-and-by the Bible,

left very carefully shut, became dusty, through long neglect; and he proceeded to do all in his power to break down the Superintendent that he might supplant him, that is get his place. How he operated in order to gain his end will appear as we proceed. Having thus introduced almost all of the leading actors in this drama, on the stage, we will now proceed to the play.

The Surveyor of Customs at St. Louis was in the Ring. He was also connected with the St. Louis Railway Supplies Manufacturing Company, which furnished the bulk of the supplies used on the work, commonly at about fifty per cent. above what the same articles could have been bought for in open market; but he being paymaster on the work, had no difficulty in settling the bills; so that for every dollar's worth of goods obtained from that source between the contractor and the Company, the Government paid one dollar and sixty-five cents; and every dollar of a freight bill paid to the railroad, cost the Government one dollar and fifteen cents. So much for getting the supplies on the ground.

Under the bargains with the Government, the contractor was bound to quarry the rock down to two inches each way in excess of the finished stone; but scores of rocks whose shapes would have puzzled Euclid, came down to the sheds from the quarry, and the Government stone-cutters went to work not to dress but to quarry them; that is, to do in the sheds, at the expense of the Government, the very work which the contract bound the contractor to do at the quarry at his own expense.

But this was not all. For every dollar's worth of his work thus done for him gratis by the Government, it paid him, directly or indirectly, thirty-two cents besides.

There was a good deal of private work done by some parties at the quarry, at the expense of the Government. The writer can give the names of some distinguished citizens of St. Louis in this connexion.

Unfaithful employees were another source of trouble. Some of the foremen would call the roll, set the men to work, and then leave. As soon as they were gone some of their men would straggle over the works, but be back by quarter time, when the foreman would return. The Timekeeper noted the absence of these men, as well as of the foremen, and shortened on them; whilst the foremen, leaving the men at their work when they went away and finding them there when they returned, credited themselves and the men with full time.

In one month this led to a jog of more than thirteen hundred dollars between the books of the Timekeeper and those of the foremen. This raised a row. But there was one fact noticed. The foreman of Section C. never left the work one minute during the working hours, and between his book and that of the Timekeeper there was perfect accord.

But the Chief Clerk in the Government office was a man of infinite resources, adequate to any emergency, and he remedied the discrepancy. For instance, if A. had failed in October to work to a specified amount, and failed in a similar way in November, he received in November for the time he did not work in that month the pay for the time he did not work in October; and if the shortage in October overran that in November, the surplus was credited to some other man who was short in November. Thus the Government paid men money they had never earned, the contractor got his thirty-two per cent., and

"The work went bravely on."

But to prevent such jogs in future, the Timekeeper and all the foremen were required to leave their time-books with the Chief Clerk at night. The writer only knows two things, the one is that when he handed in his book at night he knew nothing about how it would read in the morning, and the other is that matters went smoothly at the expense of the Government; for he footed up his time-book by sections, and kept a daily abstract that was not handed in at the office.

But having spoken of some of the shirkers and dodgers on the work, very few of that class remain to be noticed.

One man, a blacksmith, cost the Government four dollars and a half a day without lifting a hand to work. He roosted on his forge, whilst others in the shop kept his forge clean, and charged four dollars and a half a day for overwork. The Timekeeper raised him in a hurry. Another one was a subject of general demoralization. Driven off the work, he went to St. Louis, and after a prolonged debauch, buried his poor wreck of a body under

turbed waters of the Mississippi river. And yet another, John McAuliffe, who was an agitator of the meanest kind, being driven from the work for threatening the life of Mr. Best, has recently turned up a Socialist in Chicago.

But whilst speaking in regard to these delinquents, it is very pleasant to the writer to put the fact on record that they were barely five and one-half per cent. out of a force of nearly three hundred men, gathered from the four winds; and that the vast bulk of the operatives were men of whose friendship and acquaintance any man might be justly proud.

But in tracing up the expenses of the Government on the work, considerable room must be given to straight stealing. Every day there was Government property that went out, and afterwards was neither present nor accounted for. In regard to the modes by which it went out and came not back call them Legion, for they were many; and over the whole thing let us write the comprehensive fact, that whosoever the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered.

But it is time to state a fact in order to do justice. John Best, the Government Superintendent, is an honest man; but in that position was out of his province. He is a splendid architect. Owing to his false position, and the evil counsels of his Chief Clerk, who claimed to be a practical granite cutter, Mr. Best's administrative ability degenerated into a sublime genius for meddling; and the result was a continual row between the Superintendent and the operatives, which the contractor and Chief Clerk, who saw eye to eye, improved for their own advantage and against the Superintendent. To give an instance in point. The contractor was bound to furnish rock at the sheds for two hundred and fifty cutters. At a time when that number was not exceeded, a few cutters were left without work. Under the advice of his Chief Clerk, the Superintendent rushed out and suspended quite a number of workmen, turning away men who had work to last them several days. The suspension was so large as to make it necessary to suspend a foreman; and the suspension fell on William Masson, of Section D. The result was a general strike all over the work, which demoralized the men, delayed the work, and utterly destroyed any influence for good which the Superintendent had possessed over the operatives.

Although the writer regards strikes among operatives as poor remedies for evils, he is compelled to say that in that case the men were right. The just cause for the Superintendent to have taken would have been to have notified the few men that were not employed to report on the works at roll call twice a day, and to have notified the contractor that those men were not employed owing to his failure to keep his contract, and that until such times as he furnished them rocks their pay would be deducted from his allowance at the end of the month without any discount of fifteen per cent.

For advocating this solution of the matter the Timekeeper narrowly escaped elimination from the Government office.

But the Timekeeper, being a foreign substance in that connection, was dismissed, and the removal of the Superintendent speedily followed; and, to his own great chagrin, the Chief Clerk was not appointed in his place.

But there is a promise out to explain how the contract came to Graniteville. This promise will now be kept.

A large number of the attaches of the Treasury Department, who were morally insane on the matter of acquisitiveness, found it necessary to find some one whom they could use as a tool. But before they could use him, he must have a large Government contract, and before he could get that, he must have the control of a granite quarry; and—well—ahem! the lot fell upon Jonah.

This was only evil, and that continually for all concerned. It was bad for the Government. A liberal appropriation sufficient to have finished the work has been squandered; the work has been delayed. What should not have occupied more than two years at the outside, has now dribbled along for eight; and, from present indications, will require ten more.

It was bad for every man mixed up with the control, for no matter what amount of character for financial integrity any man carried into that matter, when the facts were known, he carried none out of it.

It was bad for the quarry. It subjected it to an abnormal expansion, under which a tremendous hurrah was

raised, no end of noise and excitement, a vast expenditure of money,—not that the interests of the Government might be secured, not that the really great merits of the quarry might be developed and appreciated, but solely to make the stealing good.

Action and reaction are always equal and opposite. The quarry is now as far below a just appreciation of its real merits, as it was raised above it seven or eight years ago.

The most interesting question to the people of this section is, Will it ever revive? and the truth compels the admission that under existing arrangements the chances are against such an idea.

But very little work is being done there now. The whole force on the work does not exceed fifteen men, just about enough to show up the desolation, as Marius sitting among the ruins of Carthage was just what was needed to complete the picture.

To give an ample guarantee that the work is being well and faithfully done, it is only needful to say that William Masson has charge of the quarry.

The Granite Quarry will never revive to do any good until the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company runs out to it a switch or branch road; and then estimating bricks at six hundred to the solid perch, and putting building cubes of granite on the market at the same price with brick, there is a nice fortune over all expenses in the loose granite that to-day encumbers the quarry.

Business men who make large contracts for material for work want to see arrangements actually existing and in operation adequate to deliver more than one cart-load per day. To all such men the sight of that ramshackle arrangement of poles and old iron supposed to be a railroad, leading from the quarry to Middlebrook, will be sufficient to dissipate all ideas of looking for much from that quarter.

When on a tour of inspection to the Granite Quarry recently, the writer was amused while listening to the details of the great things that were going to be done there; the half-million dollar contracts that were going to come in, and how swimmingly everything was going on. He was reminded of the description given by a Texas Colonel of the improvements which he was going to put to his house, which included among other things a Porto Rico in front, a Pizarro in the rear, and a lemonade all around it; whilst on the roof he would place a horoscope which he would export from Galveston.

But will the Railway Company build a branch road to the quarry? The writer not being the Company cannot certainly say; but he knows the parties most directly interested, and he knows something of the fixed principles by which business men are governed, and he does not regard as favorable the probabilities that the road will be built at least in the near future.

But there are other similar deposits in the neighborhood accessible by a branch road, and which are fully equal if not superior to the one of which we have been speaking; so that there need not be any limit to enterprise in the granite interest. It is safe to say that nothing has yet been done to show the public the importance of that interest.

But this subject cannot be dismissed without pausing for one moment to contrast Pilot Knob with the Granite Quarry; each one an inexhaustible source of wealth after its kind, each one capable of being made a controlling factor in the wealth and prosperity of the country. And yet when the writer recalls how at the Knob he met at every step the evidences of thrift and successful industry, the proofs of a just and liberal administration, which recognizes the interests of the whole community; when he remembers how at every turn he met vigorous, skillful and contented operatives, and when he recalls the open-handed and genial courtesy with which he was treated by the officials on the work, and then turns to the Granite Quarry, he feels like crying out: Woe to a country when a mine of its wealth is controlled by one whose soul lives in an alley.

Guilt of Wrong.

Some people have a fashion of confusing excellent remedies with the large mass of "patent medicines," and in this they are guilty of wrong. There are some advertised remedies fully worth all that is asked for them, and one at least we know of—Hop Bitters. The writer has had occasion to use the Bitters in just such a climate as we have most of the year in Bay City, and has always found them to be first-class and reliable, doing all that is claimed for them.—*Tribune*.